



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

January 14

Annual Meeting – Dues for
2004 payable

April 7

Board of Directors Meeting

April 23

St. George's Day

May 31

Memorial Day; Bedford 250th
Anniversary Parade

June 2-June 12

BIA Trip to England & France

June 6

60th Anniversary
Commemoration Event of
D-Day Event at the National
D-Day Memorial

June 16

Board of Directors Meeting

June 21

Students return from
England/France Exchange Visit

July 17

4th Annual Bastille Day Picnic

September 22

Board of Directors Meeting

November 3

Board of Directors Meeting;
2005 planning and plans for
Member Social Event

November 19

Social Event for Members

Visit us online:
www.ci.bedford.va.us/alliance

Meet Our Ambassadors

Five students were chosen by the Student Exchange Committee last fall to participate in the Alliance's 2004 trip to England and France. These young people will be Bedford's ambassadors in June and we would like for you to meet them.

Erin Gilhuly

I am a sophomore at Liberty High School. I am a member of the Key Club, and I am a member of the LHS swimteam. I also swim for the Bedford YMCA swimteam. I like to sew and I love to bake. I am currently in a purse-making phase and enjoy making them for my friends and family. I am so excited about this trip to France. It is a great honor to be selected to participate in the 60th anniversary of D-Day activities overseas. I am looking forward to seeing many of the places that we discuss in my history and French classes up close and personal instead of just looking at pictures in my textbook. Just recently, my neighbor's husband passed away--he was a WWII veteran, Mr. Earl Wilson. When Mrs. Wilson found out that I was going to Normandy, she had asked me to find the graves of some of his buddies who were buried in France.

Joey Philbrick

I am an honor student in the 11th grade at Liberty High School. When I'm not in school or at work, I am usually hanging out with my friends

or playing paintball. I am very interested in music, both playing and listening. I have played in many bands including marching, concert, symphonic, and orchestra. Being selected as a student ambassador has made me very proud. I look forward to meeting other students from different countries and experiencing a different culture. I think it will make me more well-rounded as a person. It is such an honor to be a part of this trip because of the 60th anniversary of D-Day and being able to participate in history in the making. I hope to visit the Mont St. Michel and the Caen Peace Memorial Museum while in Normandy and while in Paris, I would like to go to the Louvre.

Chris Hartford

I am a junior at Liberty High School. I like music and computers. I am excited to have an opportunity such as this because there will only be one 60th anniversary celebration and I will be a part of it. I look forward to the homestays and

continued on page 2

Meet Our Ambassadors

continued from page 1



The winning students, shown above left to right, are Christopher Hartford, Isaac Podyma, Erin Gilhuly, Brittany Bolling. BIA members and the students' French teachers Julie Mayhew and Helen Pope are on the right. Joseph Philbrick is not pictured above.

experiencing French culture. It will be something that I will never forget. I'm looking forward to visiting our sister cities and in particular, the beaches of Normandy. I hope to visit the Caen Memorial Museum and several sites in Paris, in particular the Arc de Triomphe.

Brittany Bolling

My name is Brittany Bolling. I am 15 years old and I am a sophomore at

Staunton River High School. I love to play volleyball. I have been studying French for three years.

I live in Bedford with my mother and father, my brother Aaron who is

continued on page 3



The students and their parents meet with Alliance members to discuss the details of the trip.

Scholarship Committee Report

I am pleased to report that the Bedford International Alliance received a total of \$3,925 toward the Scholarship Fund for five Bedford County students to travel to England and France, June 2-12, 2004.

The list of donors is as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ➤ Alliance Members | ➤ Domade, Inc., Boones Mill, Virginia | ➤ Sandy and Mike Shelton |
| ➤ Arthur's Jewelry, Inc. | | ➤ Southern Flavoring Company |
| ➤ Bedford Host Lions Club | ➤ Duke Fence Company | ➤ Charles and Elizabeth Walker |
| ➤ Bedford Rotary Club | ➤ Lois and Milton Graham | ➤ Wheelabrator Abrasives Co. |
| ➤ Lucille Boggess | ➤ Gunnoe Sausage Company | |
| ➤ Edward V. Broesamle, Chicago, Illinois | ➤ Kiwanis Club of Bedford | |
| | ➤ Murray & Bolling Chevrolet Co. | |

We thank all of the contributors for their support of the Bedford International Alliance's Scholarship Fund. Because of their generosity, five young people from our area will share in a unique cultural exchange and learn lessons which will last them a lifetime.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Messier

Meet Our Ambassadors

continued from page 2

eight years old, and my sister Brandy, who is 12. I have a dog named Topanga and a cat named Sean.

This will be my first trip to France. I want to learn more about the Normandy-Bedford connection and am looking forward to visiting Paris. My main interest in Paris is the Eiffel Tower. I'm excited about having the opportunity to practice my French and meeting French people.

Isaac Podyma

My name is Isaac Podyma. I am 15 years old and I am a sophomore at Staunton River High School. I

attended the World Community Education Center before I came to Staunton River this year. I was born in Bedford. I have been studying French for four years.

This will be my first trip to France and I'm interested in speaking French with the French people. I'm looking forward to seeing how the French live. I think it will be cool to get to see the French kids skateboarding. I also want to see the beaches where the Bedford soldiers landed.



*Here
there be
dragons...*



What:..... **The Bedford International Alliance
St George's Day Celebration**

When:..... **6:00 p.m., on April 23**

Where:..... **Liberty Lake Park in Bedford**

Menu:..... **Fish & Chips with a few other items,
beer, wine, and dessert.**



St George's Day Celebration

Yes, I want to celebrate St George's Day with my friends in the Bedford International Alliance.

Yes, I (we) will be there! _____

Address _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

4

Mail to: Connie Messier, Treasurer, 1527 Newton Circle, Bedford, VA 24523

RSVP by April 12, 2004

Joint Resolution Establishing an International Twinning Relationship Between the Town of Ivybridge, England UK, the City and County of Bedford, Virginia USA and the Bedford International Alliance, Inc.

Be it known to all that on this day, the fourth of June, 2004, the Council of the Town of Ivybridge, England, the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Bedford, Virginia and the Board of Directors of the Bedford International Alliance, Incorporated, hereby establish and formalize an historic and significant international relationship between our peoples.

WHEREAS, world history is steeped with references of the strong kinship and friendship between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, whereby these two countries have maintained military, economic, diplomatic, cultural and educational relationships, which have proven mutually beneficial to our respective citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United Kingdom and the United States formed a powerful military alliance during World War II to battle and defeat the oppressive regime of Nazi Germany, with various locales in the United Kingdom serving as preparation and training venues for initiating “Operation Overlord,” the greatest land, air and sea invasion in world history; and

WHEREAS, Ivybridge, England served as the location for housing and training thousands of soldiers affiliated with the 29th Division, 116th Infantry Regiment, and these soldiers lived in the Ivybridge community for two years until the beginning of the end of World War II, better known as “D-Day,” June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, members of the 116th Infantry Regiment, Company A from Bedford, Virginia frequently traversed the streets of Ivybridge, making use of and frequenting the various businesses and homes of the citizens living there, and calling Ivybridge their “home away from home”; and

WHEREAS, 35 of the soldiers from Company A were citizens from the greater Bedford, Virginia community during 1944, and they were part of the first wave of landings at Omaha Beach as part of “Operation Overlord” on June 6, 1944, with 23 of those soldiers dying on that day, nineteen in the first fifteen minutes of the liberation landing; and

WHEREAS, *Ivybridge, England served as the very last home for these brave and dedicated soldiers, and their deaths resulted in Bedford, Virginia experiencing the highest per capita loss of soldiers on D-Day of any locality in the United States, which has resulted in the location of the United States' National D-Day Memorial being located in this community; and*

WHEREAS, *Ivybridge, England has honored the soldiers of the 29th Division, 116th Infantry Regiment with a fitting memorial to commemorate their sacrifice for freedom and liberty and the fact that these soldiers lived, trained, worked and played in the Ivybridge community; and*

WHEREAS, *officials from Ivybridge, England and Bedford, Virginia have determined that it is right and proper for history and posterity that a formal and ongoing twinning of our communities occur for all of our citizens and those around the world to know of what took place in Ivybridge during World War II and that the efforts and sacrifices of the American and British service men and women shall not be forgotten;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, *that in the presence of citizens and officials from Ivybridge, England and Bedford, Virginia, these international communities do hereby establish and formalize a twinning relationship to promote the historic ties between our countries and our communities. In accomplishing this effort, we commit ourselves to a wide range of programs to foster remembrance, promote learning of and from each other, and to build and sustain long-lasting friendships. Our efforts will serve to insure that the generations that follow us on this date shall always remember the sacrifices made by our fellow citizens to defend freedom and democracy around the world.*

Accepted and Executed on June 4, 2004 by officials authorized to establish this relationship:

Carol Beeson, Mayor of Ivybridge, England

E. Thomas Messier, Mayor of Bedford, Virginia

Bobby Pollard, Chair, Bedford County Board of Supervisors

G. Michael Shelton, President, Bedford International Alliance, Inc.

Getting to know St George, Patron Saint of England

“At the town of Silene, in Libya, there was a dragon, who was appeased by being fed two sheep a day; when these failed, the townsfolk offered by lot one of their young people. One day the lot fell on the King’s daughter, who was led out to the sacrifice, dressed in her wedding gown. George appeared and transfixed the dragon with his spear and then using the Princess’s girdle led the bemused dragon into the town, where it was beheaded.”

Patron Saint of England

St George is the patron saint of England and among the most famous of Christian figures. But of the man himself, nothing is certainly known.

The origins of the stories

The earliest stories relating to St. George appear in the writing of Eusebius of Caesarea, in 322 AD. His writings tell of a soldier of noble birth who was put to death under Diocletian at Nicomedia on 23 April, 303, but makes no mention of his name, his country or his place of burial. According to the apocryphal Acts of St George, in various versions in the Eastern Church from the fifth century, George held the rank of tribune in the Roman army and was beheaded by Diocletian for protesting against the Emperor’s persecution of Christians.

George rapidly became venerated throughout Christendom as an example of bravery in defense of the poor and the defenseless and of the Christian faith.

Arrival in England

George was probably first made known in England by Arculpus and Adamnan in the early eighth century, when the Acts of St George, were translated into Anglo-Saxon.

Because of his widespread following, particularly in the Near East, and the many miracles attributed to him, George became universally recognized as a saint sometime after 900.

Patron Saint of Soldiers

George was adopted as the patron saint of soldiers after he was said to have appeared to the Crusader army at

the Battle of Antioch in 1098. Many similar stories were transmitted to the West by Crusaders who had heard them from Byzantine troops, and were circulated further by the troubadours. When Richard I was campaigning in Palestine in 1191-92, he put the army under the protection of St George.

A Holiday is Established

A lesser holiday in honor of St George, to be kept on 23 April, was declared by the Synod of Oxford in 1222; and St George had become acknowledged as Patron Saint of England by the end of the fourteenth century.

In 1415, the year of Agincourt, Archbishop Chichele raised St George’s Day to a great feast and ordered it to be observed like Christmas Day. In 1778 the holiday reverted to a simple day of devotion for English Catholics.

Some confusion has arisen from the revision of its Calendar of Saints by the Roman Catholic Church in 1969. Saints have long been honored with different degrees of solemnity. What the Catholic Church did was to downgrade the recollection of St George to the lowest category, commemoration, an optional memorial for local observance. The Church did not abolish St George. Indeed, it maintains a fine Cathedral named for him, opposite the Imperial War Museum in London.

Courage, Honor, and Fortitude

The reason the Church now simply commemorates St George is that, although he certainly existed, so little is definitely known about him. Most of the legends about George are

apocryphal and indeed incredible. The Catholic Church has never officially held that these legends are literally true, but made use of them to illustrate some of its teachings in times when people were more comfortable with such materials. As early as 496, Pope Gelasius in *De libris recipiendis* includes George among those saints 'whose names are rightly revered among us, but whose actions are known only to God'. The virtues associated with St George, such as courage, honor, and fortitude in defense of the Christian faith, indeed remain as important as ever.

Venerated by Many

St George is also, of course, venerated in the Church of England, by the Orthodox churches and by the Churches of the Near East and Ethiopia. The supposed tomb of St George can still be seen at Lod, south-east of Tel-Aviv; and a convent in Cairo preserves personal objects which are believed to have belonged to George.

St George is still venerated in a large number of places, by followers of particular occupations and sufferers from certain diseases. George is the patron saint of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to St Mark). He is patron of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry; of farmers and field workers, Boy Scouts and butchers; of horses, riders and saddlers; and of sufferers from leprosy, plague and syphilis.



2004 Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership in the Bedford International Alliance, now is the time to do so. Please complete the form below and mail, along with your check for \$10 per person (payable to the "Bedford International Alliance"), to the Treasurer at the address below. You must have your dues payment up-to-date in order to participate in the activities of the Alliance.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE # _____ WORK PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES) _____

Mail to: Connie Messier, Treasurer, 1527 Newton Circle, Bedford, VA 24523

Bedford International Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 951
Bedford, Virginia 24523